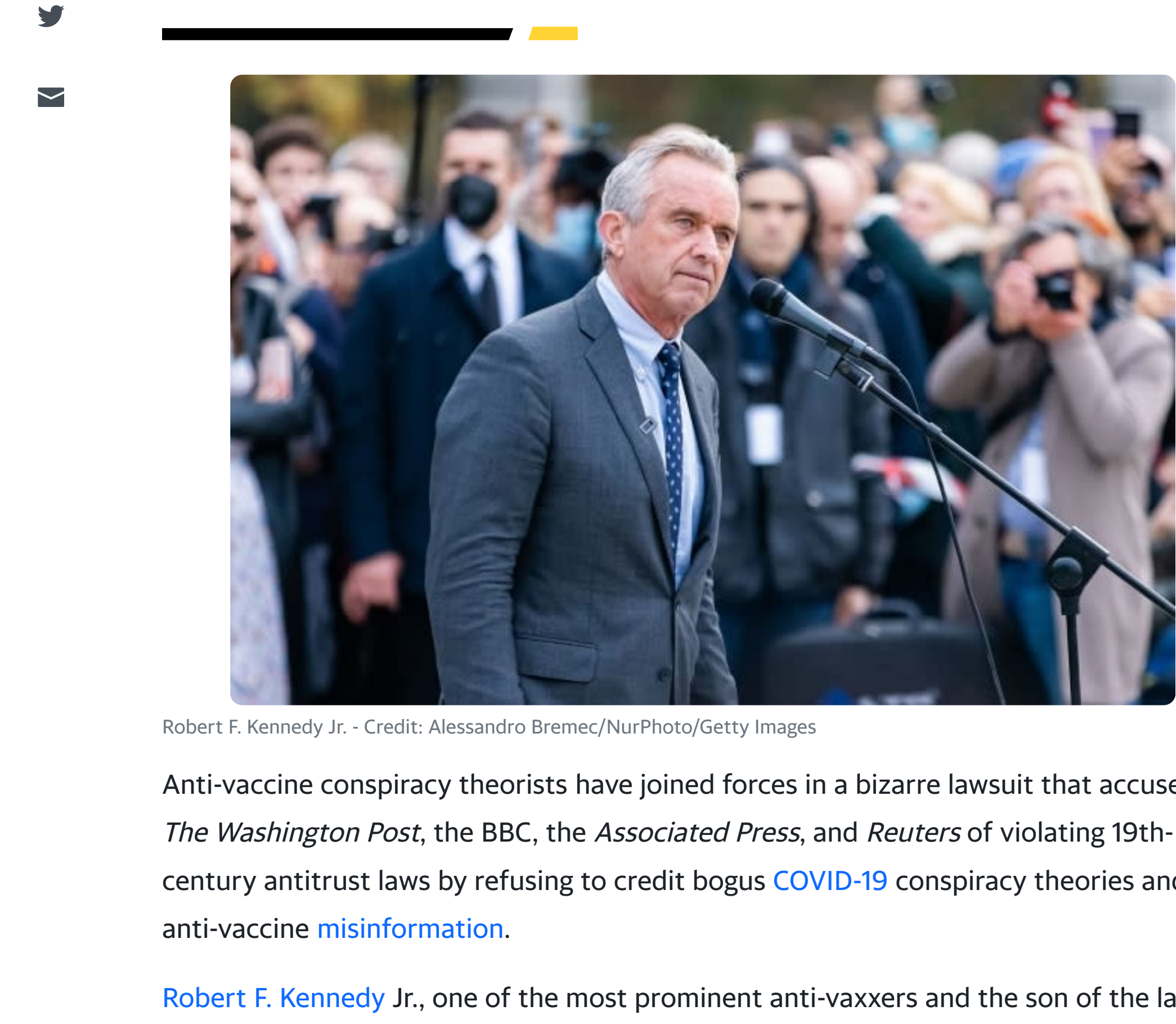


RollingStone | Rolling Stone

Robert F. Kennedy Jr. and His League of Extraordinary Anti-Vaxxers Sue Media Outlets Over Conspiracy ‘Boycott’



Robert F. Kennedy Jr. - Credit: Alessandro Bremec/NurPhoto/Getty Images

Anti-vaccine conspiracy theorists have joined forces in a bizarre lawsuit that accuses *The Washington Post*, the BBC, the *Associated Press*, and *Reuters* of violating 19th-century antitrust laws by refusing to credit bogus **COVID-19** conspiracy theories and anti-vaccine [misinformation](#).

[Robert F. Kennedy Jr.](#), one of the most prominent anti-vaxxers and the son of the late Democratic presidential candidate, joined 10 other plaintiffs in a suit that claims the news outlets are illegally boycotting right-wing conspiracy theories by engaging in an industry partnership to fight misinformation.

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The nearly 100-page complaint claims that the Trusted News Initiative, started by the BBC in late 2020, violates the Sherman Antitrust Act of 1890, which prohibits industry cartels, price fixing, and other anti-competitive behavior.

According to Kennedy's complaint, prominent news organizations and social media platforms conspired to label right-wing talking points about COVID vaccines, quack COVID-19 remedies like ivermectin and hydroxychloroquine, and Hunter Biden's laptop as misinformation because the outlets pushing them represent a “competitive threat to legacy news organizations.”

The Trusted News Initiative partners sued by Kennedy and others describe itself as a “global partnership bringing together organisations across media and technology to tackle harmful disinformation.” Members of the initiative, including both news publishers and social media companies, “alert each other to high-risk disinformation” to ensure that both publishers and social media platforms don’t “unwittingly share dangerous falsehoods,” [according to its website](#).

The co-plaintiffs on the suit read like a who's who of conspiracy theorist pundits. They include half the members of the so-called “[disinformation dozen](#)” — a list of 12 anti-vaccine influencers, which the Center for Countering Digital Hate estimated were responsible for nearly two-thirds of the anti-vaccine misinformation on social media.

Among the outlets allegedly targeted as a “competitive threat” to the *BBC*, *Reuters*, and *AP* is *The Gateway Pundit*, a far-right website published by co-plaintiff Jim Hoft. Hoft's site is currently facing a series of lawsuits alleging his outlet has defamed election workers in Georgia and the voting technology firm Dominion. The outlet is notorious for repeatedly misidentifying murderers in prominent public attacks, including the driver behind an attack at the 2017 Charlottesville white nationalist riot, the Las Vegas mass shooter, and the shooter at a 2018 Madden NFL video game tournament.

Creative Destruction Media, another plaintiff in the suit alleging illegal anti-competitive behavior, listed among its complaints that Facebook “blocked all CD Media content after a post that included images of Hunter Biden from LinkedIn and Facebook and stated, ‘we have the Hunter Biden sex tapes...one per hour being released.’”

Kennedy rose to fame as an anti-vaccine conspiracy theorist in part on the strength of his 2005 *Rolling Stone* article “Deadly Immunity,” which falsely asserted a link between childhood vaccines and autism. Scientists have since repeatedly debunked claims of a link between vaccinations and autism, and *Rolling Stone* retracted the article in 2011.

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Prince Harry Got Home in Time for Archie—and Lemon Cake

Phil Harris/Pool via ReutersWelcome to this week's special Coronation edition of Royalist, The Daily Beast's newsletter for all things royal and Royal Family. Subscribe here to get it in your inbox every Sunday:Home againPrince Harry landed back in Los Angeles after his whistle stop trip to England f...

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Meghan Markle is indeed having a birthday party in Montecito, California, for her and Prince Harry's oldest son Archie on coronation day.

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Alongside her husband, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, the 48-year old beamed in a light pink dress with puffy chiffon sleeves.

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Texas congressman says people who think 'prayers aren't cutting it' as a solution to gun violence 'don't believe in an almighty god who is absolutely in control of our'

Rep. Keith Self called for prayer in light of the mass shooting at Allen Premium Outlets — a mall near Dallas, Texas — on Saturday.

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Country Living

'Yellowstone' Star Kelsey Asbille Shut Down the Red Carpet in a Mini Dress

'Yellowstone' star Kelsey Asbille wore head-to-toe red for the Met Gala. She wore a super short Prabal Gurung gown with matching garter.

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Katy Perry stumbles while departing King and Queen's coronation service

The service was attended by more than 2,000 guests including TV presenters Anthony McPartlin and Declan Donnelly and Dame Emma Thompson.

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William Barr Torches Former Boss Donald Trump: 'Horror Show'

Fox News' Geraldo Rivera asked the ex-attorney general about Trump's fitness for the White House.

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Duke and Duchess of Sussex's son Prince Archie turned four on same day as King and Queen's coronation

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PureWow

Princess Beatrice and Princess Eugenie Pull Out More Eye-Popping Headwear for Coronation

If you're from the United States, then you might not be familiar with a headband. In short, it's a piece of headwear that looks like a fancy hat and is usually attached to a headband or hair clip. Among the royal family members, fascinators are practically a must, and two royals who seem to...

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The Telegraph

Prince Harry has never looked more like a spare

It took me a second to work out what Prince Harry reminded me of as he made his way down the aisle of Westminster Abbey today. Then it came to me: the royal renegade had the expression and gait of a teenager who had recently disgraced himself at a family occasion, necking a bottle of por...

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Coyote comes face-to-face with cat inside home, California video shows. 'Terrified'

The coyote entered through a dog door.

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The Independent

Watch live: William and Kate meet royal fans on walkabout in Windsor after coronation

Watch live as the Prince and Princess of Wales meet royal fans in Windsor on a walkabout on Sunday, 7 May. Prince William and Princess Kate are chatting to well-wishers who have lined the streets after King Charles III's coronation. On Sunday, people across the UK have been invited to...

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